

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
300 7<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write to learn more about the Department of Homeland Security Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP) and its ability to resolve cases of American travelers who have been unfairly or incorrectly placed on federal watch lists. Watch lists are an important tool to guard against terrorism, but they must strike the right balance with U.S. civil rights and liberties.

We appreciate that the Department of Homeland Security has taken steps to provide redress for innocent Americans who have been placed on watch lists. DHS TRIP makes it easier for travelers to resolve cases of misidentification, such as false-positive matches in which the name of a law-abiding traveler is similar to that of a person who is on a list for good reason. However, beyond cases of misidentification, we are concerned that DHS TRIP provides no effective means of redress for unfair or incorrect designations. We also understand that nearly 24 Americans have been placed on watch lists while traveling abroad, inhibiting their return home. While never charged with a crime, these Americans found themselves temporarily stranded abroad.

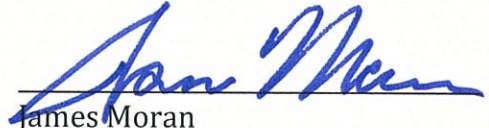
Congress established DHS TRIP to provide innocent Americans a mechanism to correct their improper placement on federal watch lists. Thank you for considering the following questions to help us better understand whether the program is fulfilling its mission.

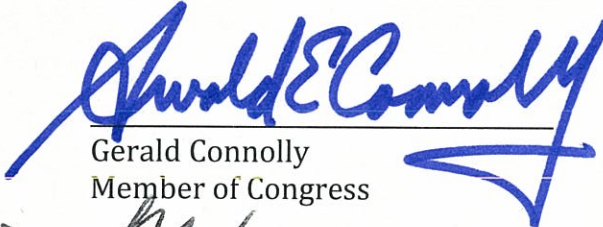
1. What is the process when a DHS TRIP application is filed? What other government agencies are involved, and what is their role? How many referrals to them are made, and what are the outcomes?
2. In each of the last three years, how many DHS TRIP applications have been filed, and how many resulted in a person's removal from a watch list?
3. How many American citizens have submitted DHS TRIP applications while abroad? How were these cases resolved, and how long did each take?
4. Does DHS TRIP provide individuals the opportunity to challenge the evidence that led to their designation on a federal watch list? If so, what is the process?
5. Does DHS TRIP have the authority itself to remove someone from a watch list?
6. What demographic information (nationality, country of origin, age, gender, race) is considered when making the decision to place someone on a watch list? What is the demographic data of DHS TRIP applicants, and of those whose cases are resolved?

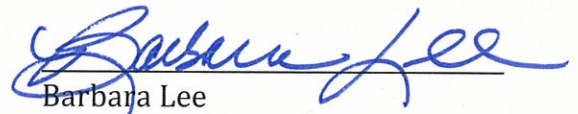
Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. We look forward to your response.

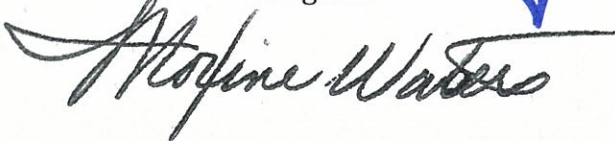
Sincerely,


  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress


  
James Moran  
Member of Congress

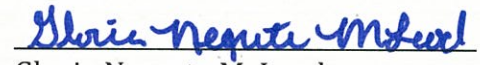
  
Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress


  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress


  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress


  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

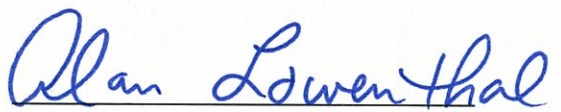
  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

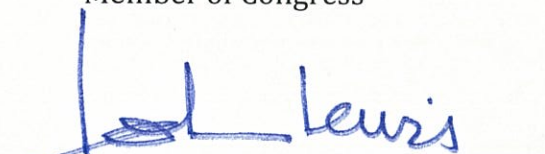
  
Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress

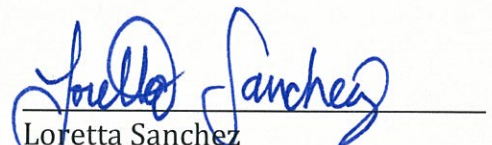
  
Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress

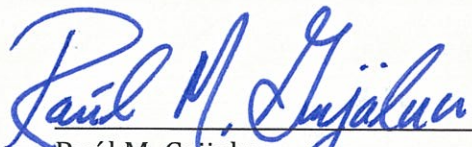
  
James McDermott  
Member of Congress

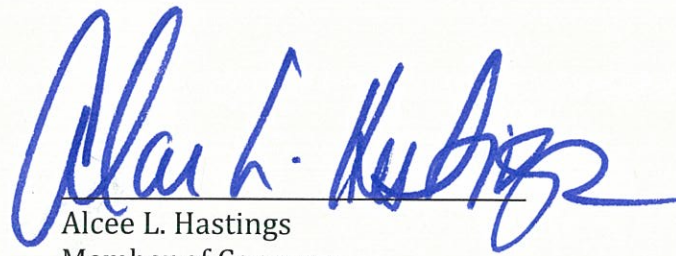
  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

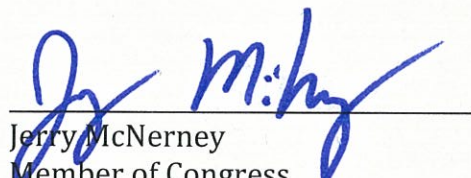
  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress




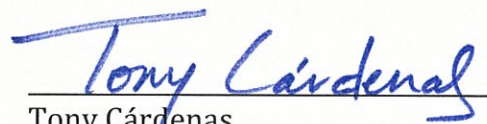
  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

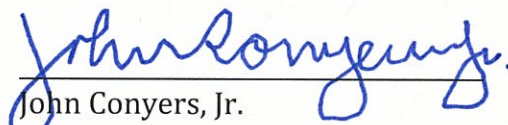
  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

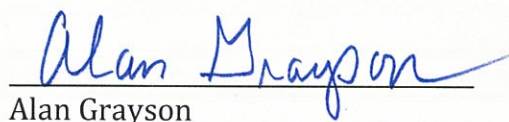
  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress


  
David Scott  
Member of Congress

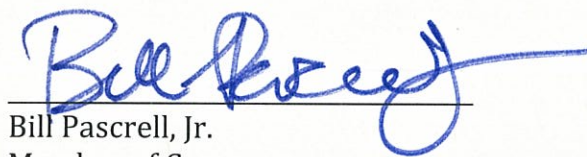
  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress